



## Marianna Doctor Named Chief Surgeon at Sacred Heart on the Gulf Hospital

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### Jackson County, Fla:

A long-serving Jackson County physician and former Marianna city commissioner is taking over

as chief surgeon at Sacred Heart's new hospital in Port St. Joe.

According to a press release from Sacred Heart, Dr. Richard Brunner will begin performing his surgeries at Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf beginning June 1.

Brunner, nurse practitioner Wendy Corbin and associate Dr. Val-Dee Sheffield will continue to see patients at his Marianna office, according to the release.

Brunner is a board-certified surgeon who has practiced in Marianna for more than 20 years, according to the release.

"We are very pleased to have a surgeon of Dr. Brunner's experience and surgical expertise joining our medical staff at Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf," said hospital President Roger Hall. "It was very important to us that we provide the services of a surgeon with his training and record of success. It was a bonus to recruit a well-known surgeon who is very familiar with the area."

Brunner obtained his medical degree from the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences and performed his residency training in surgery at the University of Florida Health Sciences Center in Jacksonville.

He has practiced in Marianna since 1989 and is an assistant professor of surgery for the rural track of Florida State University Medical School.

Brunner has lived in Marianna since he was in the third grade. His father, Dr. William Brunner, is a retired surgeon who practiced in Marianna for more than 40 years.

"It was a very difficult decision to move my surgery practice out of my hometown," Brunner said in the news release. "But I am

honored that Sacred Heart has selected me to join such a prestigious organization, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to start the surgery service at a beautiful new hospital."

Brunner noted that his fiancé, Lisa Sowell, is from Port St. Joe, and he has a home in Mexico Beach.

The new 25-bed, \$38 million hospital opened on March 15.

Brunner will be a part of Sacred Heart Medical Group, a network of more than 100 primary care physicians and specialists at offices in Northwest Florida and south Alabama.

Jackson Hospital spokesperson Rosie Smith said that with Brunner leaving, Dr. Teresa Goodpaster will join Dr. Chai Arunakul at Chipola Surgical Associates in Marianna April 1.

"We wish much success to Dr. Rick Brunner when he joins Sacred Heart on June 1 and thank him for his tenure in our community and surgical service to our hospital," Smith said.

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